

of the United States, that it honestly, as stated by Admiral Nimitz, "staggers the imagination."

Thank you and sincerely,  
BOB VAN DEVENDER.

# ARTHUR LEVITT'S GRADUATION SPEECH

**HON. BILL RICHARDSON**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 1995*

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, this is the time of year when each of us spends a great deal of time addressing high school graduation classes. We offer our wisdom and experience to these young graduates who are entering a new phase in their lives.

Students graduating from Pojoaque High School in my home county of Santa Fe had the unique opportunity to hear from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Arthur Levitt. Chairman Levitt offered a magnificent commencement address that deserves to be shared with more than just the 101 member graduating class.

I urge my colleagues to review Chairman Levitt's speech and share it with young people all across this great country.

REMARKS BY ARTHUR LEVITT, CHAIRMAN, U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION—POJOAQUE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION, POJOAQUE PUEBLO, NM

I am really proud to be here—almost as proud as the families and friends of the seniors who are graduating today. Congratulations to each of you. You've worked hard to reach this day—enjoy it.

I don't think I ever wanted to speak at a graduation any more than this one. I've seen you through the eyes of my friend, John Rivera Dirks and his four classmates, Antonio Gonzalez, George Gonzalez, Ronald Noybal and Melissa Martinez, who honored me by your invitation. And I like what I see—(101) men and women who have worked hard—played and prayed together—respected their families, their community and their country, and are now going to take the risks of jobs or college in a world of uncertainty, challenge and opportunity.

I guess I'm here partly as a Vecino who has a home about 13 miles south of here. And I'm here partly because John invited me, and because I so admire the values of his family and their devotion to one another and to their community.

But there's one other reason I'm here today, and that is because I identify with this community. I grew up in a neighborhood called Crown Heights, which is in Brooklyn, New York. And my mother, like John's, was a school teacher. And believe it or not, Pojoaque and the Crown Heights I remember have a lot in common. Both are very closely-knit communities, where everyone knows everyone else. Both are home to many members of the same family, so that your butcher or baker or even your high school teacher might also be your uncle or aunt.

And, most important, Crown Heights and Pojoaque are both equally part of America, a nation that offers its citizens more opportunities than any nation in the world—no matter whether you are a man or a woman, whether you are Hispanic, Native America or Jewish, whether you live in New Mexico or New York.

That's not to say things come easy in this country. I've had all kinds of jobs—I worked for a newspaper, served in the Air Force,

raised a family, worked on a ranch and in offices. From time to time, I also encountered prejudice and overcame it.

I never went to graduate school or even took an economic course. I nearly flunked out of grammar school and had lots of doubts about my choice of jobs. I must confess to you that in each of the five jobs I've held, including the present one—without exception I started out by being terrified that I was not up to it.

Many of you have shared such uncertainties. You certainly know that careers and relationships have bumps and curves. But if one quality more than any other predicts success that quality is perseverance. And if there is one characteristic which will make success meaningful rather than just a cheap or hollow attainment, that characteristic is integrity.

I don't have to tell you about the problems of our society that may impede or distract you—crime, injustice, drugs, prejudice, and many more. You've gotten this far by overcoming them. You'll need to stay tough—to fight for what you want and believe in and resist the easy, fast, or thoughtless paths.

You'll also need to be smart and willing to take risks. The best in our society have failed, made mistakes, or had bad breaks but they didn't turn back, blame others, or remain indecisive.

Don't believe the myth that opportunity strikes only once in a lifetime. You will be exposed to opportunities much more than that—maybe once a day if you'll be receptive. What a good education—either formal or by experience—will do is equip you to recognize opportunities.

Most of you know what it means to work hard. And you've received a good education here at Pojoaque. So you already have a solid foundation on which to build your lives.

But more than half of you will take a step further and go to college; if you can do it, that's really the best foundation of all—especially in the 1990s.

You may have friends or relatives who did fine without college—in fact, the Prime Minister of England, John Major, never finished college. But in most cases, those people belong to a generation that came before you; your generation, and those that come after you, will find the most opportunities by going to college. So please do that if you can—either now or later.

But no matter what you do next, don't settle for whatever life give you—instead—reach for the stars. You are undoubtedly better than you think you are. You are probably smarter. Try to make your fate rather than just going with the flow.

Sure it's easy for me to tell you what to do and what it's all about. I know that it's tough to be 17 and, believe it or not, I was once there. If I can leave this wonderful class with anything today, it's to preserve your spirit, nurture the values that brought your families to rejoice with you as you graduate, and don't accept the path of least resistance.

Take chances. Go out on a limb, for your job or your dream. Laugh at yourself.

Let someone in. Comfort a friend. Give, and give in. Observe miracles—make them happen. Forgive an enemy. Take time for people—make time for yourself.

Write a song. Challenge someone in power. Say no. Climb a mountain. Change your mind. Fail, feel, love, But above all—grow. Don't ever look back and say what might have been. Enjoy life, and share you joys with others.

Compassion, integrity and a sense of humor will make it easier. The belief and pride I see in the eyes of your parents and friends should get you off to a great start. And know that I join the others in this room

rooting and praying for the Pojoaque High School Class of '95. And now, after so many years of listening to adults talk, it's time for you to make some noise, too. This is your day. Congratulations, and good luck. Buena Suerte.

# A POINT-OF-LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS: THE CLARA BARTON HIGH SCHOOL BILL OF RIGHTS TEAM

**HON. MAJOR R. OWENS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 15, 1995*

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute the 36 students and their teachers from Clara Barton High School whose efforts represent a Point-of-Light for all Americans. Brooklyn and the 11th Congressional District are particularly proud of the team from Clara Barton High School who won the New York State Championship and finished fourth among the 50 States in the "We the People . . . the Citizens and the Constitution" competition.

The team of students and their teachers at Clara Barton High School competed against some of the best, brightest, and wealthiest students from New York State to secure the State championship. They further persevered in the national "We the People" competition—a debate-style mock congressional hearing which judges students' knowledge and critical understanding of the Bill of Rights. In preparation for the competition, students undertook an intensive study of the Bill of Rights. At the competition, students were required to take a position on current constitutional issues and to defend their position elaborately.

Located in the heart of the Crown Heights neighborhood, it is evident that the students from Clara Barton are quite capable of overcoming many feats amid an environment too often characterized by doubt, negative peer pressure, and modest economic means. They fought against a problem-ridden education system and achieved excellence for themselves and their community.

The names of the victorious students are: Carl Abbot, Afaf Abdur Rahman, Maatra Akbar, Jasmine Ali, LaToya Andrews, Lourdes Baez, Alesha Bovell, Faithlyn Brown, Eva Gordon, Kevin Grant, Quincy Grigsby, Chevonne Hall, Kevin Johnson, Zulema Jones, Charmaine King, Marsha Lewis, Rosevelie Marquez, Dwayne Mason, Antoinette McKenzie, Dameon Ming, Cynthia Morales, David Morisset, Sheila Morisset, Cecil Orji, Felix Pacheco, Gary Pagan, Sherita Perry, Carline Petit, Travis Sampson, Karen Sanchez, Crystal Sheard, Kestia St. Juste, Stacy Taitt, Kaydean West, Arnise Williams, and Vaughn Wilson.

The tireless efforts of many adults also contributed to the victory of the Clara Barton students. Their coaches were Mr. Leo Casey and Ms. Randi Weingarten. Also, for the past 5 years Mrs. Florence Smith served as a special liaison to the Clara Barton team from the office of Congressman MAJOR OWENS. The MLK Commission chaired by Mrs. Lorrelle Henry provided moral, spiritual, and financial support for the team. Many additional friends including Judge Thomas R. Jones adopted the team and became cosponsors.

With the war on our children's future being waged by the Republicans in Washington and

in Albany, NY; and with the advanced technical skills that will be needed in the workplace in the year 2000, it is becoming clear that minority and working class children face a very troubling future. To fight these destructive forces we must make new efforts to teach our children how important a good education is to their future. We must do more to reward our children when they exhibit academic excellence. The exceptional performance of the Clara Barton champions in a nationwide competition once again proves that the Bell Curve theory of racial inferiority is a big lie.

The team at Clara Barton High School represents a magnificent Point-of-Light and serves as an inspiring success story for all young people and all of America.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I missed several rollcall votes in order to attend my son's graduation ceremony in Buffalo. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcalls 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, and 377, and "no" on rollcalls 378 and 379.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARINE LANCE CPL. JUSTIN LEWIS

### HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, some are called heroes because they can sing a song or put a leather ball through an iron hoop. But every now and then, real heroes come along. People who sacrifice everything in the name of liberty and protecting the American way. People who don't stop to think about being a hero, but instead understand that if they don't do their job, lives will be lost.

One of those heroes is from the fourth District of Michigan, and his name is Marine Lance Cpl. Justin Lewis.

Justin, who graduated from Midland Dow High School, was one of the 61 member 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit that rescued pilot Scott O'Grady in Bosnia. After the dramatic rescue, Justin told his mother, Linda, that "we didn't have time to be scared, we just did it."

When Justin's chopper lifted off the rescue sight, a surface-to-air missile missed the aircraft by about a foot. Bullets flew by and it was a narrow escape. But Justin Lewis and the rest of that unit went in, did their job, and made the rescue. They were not expecting to become heroes, but I can't think of many people who deserve the title more.

What Scott O'Grady went through in the name of our country is heroic, to say the least. His courage and ability to adapt is an inspiration to every American. His commitment and the actions of the members of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, including Justin Lewis, truly define the meaning of heroes.

#### TRIBUTE TO M. EDWARD KELLY

### HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding civic leader of Illinois' 14th Congressional District, M. Edward Kelly, on his forthcoming retirement.

Ed Kelly has served since December of 1976 as the executive vice president of the Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce. The list of accomplishments during his long career are many, and there are many States across this Nation that are better for his service there. Born and raised in Parkersburg, WV, he graduated from Marietta College in Marietta, OH and entered the field of organization management in 1955. He began his professional career with the Benton Harbor-Saint Joseph's Chamber of Commerce in Michigan, and managed chambers in Oshkosh, WI and Springfield, MO before settling in Elgin, IL.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Kelly has been a valued member of the Elgin community for years, and his list of civic and professional activities is a long one. A former director of the YMCA corporate board, Miss Illinois Scholarship Pageant and Elgin Sesquicentennial Committee, he is also a past president of the Rotary Club of Elgin. To this day he serves as a member of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, as an ex-officio member of the Center City Development Corporation and as a trustee of the Northwest Suburban Mass Transit District.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring this dedicated man, for his commitment to this Nation's businesses and to the Elgin community. I wish my friend the best in his retirement. His experience and dedication have served the people of Elgin well.

#### HIGH RISK DRIVERS ACT OF 1995

### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a matter of great importance to our Nation and especially to our youth.

Many of us read every day about the tragedy that accompanies driving while intoxicated [DWI], speeding, foregoing seatbelts, and other risky behavior on the part of our Nation's young drivers. During the 103d Congress, I introduced legislation with the purpose of reducing these senseless tragedies. Today, I proudly reintroduced this important legislation, the High Risk Drivers Act of 1995, and hope my colleagues will join in this worthy effort by becoming a cosponsor.

The High Risk Drivers Act of 1995 sets up an incentive grant program to encourage States to implement programs designed to improve the traffic safety performance of high risk drivers. To qualify for incentive grants, States would have to establish a provisional licensing system which mandates that a minor may not obtain a full license until the young driver has held a provisional license for more than a year with a perfect driving record.

In addition, States would have to take a number of the following steps to qualify for a grant, including establishing a .02 blood alcohol content [BAC] maximum for minors; mandating seat belt use for all passengers in a motor vehicle; a use-and-lose provision which would cost any young driver his or her license for 6 months if convicted of purchasing or possessing alcohol; a youth-oriented traffic safety enforcement, education, and training program for State officials and young persons; a mandatory minimum penalty of \$500 for selling alcohol to a minor; development of a procedure to ensure that traffic records, both instate and out-of-State, are available to the appropriate government officials; and a prohibition on open containers of alcohol in the passenger compartment of any vehicle on a public highway, except for chartered buses.

In addition, a supplemental grant program would be available to States which took steps such as providing information to parents on the effect of traffic convictions on insurance rates and providing stricter penalties for speeding for drivers under the age of 21.

As we all know, underage drinking and driving is an all-too-frequent deadly combination which we read about seemingly every day in our local newspapers. We must work together to help solve this problem, and the High Risk Drivers Act of 1995 will be an important step in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I urge each and every one of my colleagues here in the House to join as a cosponsor of the High Risk Drivers Act of 1995, and help to ensure passage of this important and needed legislation.

#### POETIC TRIBUTE TO THE YOUNG VICTIMS OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

### HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 1995

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, recently I received a poem in the mail from a constituent I represent, Ms. Paula McCoy-Pinderhughes of Somerset, NJ. This poem was inspired by the tragic Oklahoma City bombing, and is dedicated to the children who lost their lives on that fateful day.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the worst aspect of this senseless tragedy is the long-term impact it will have on our Nation's young. Ms. Pinderhughes' poem is touching and poignant, and I commend it to my colleagues' attention.

#### OUR CHILDREN

Our children are beyond the colors of the rainbow

They shine as bright as the evening star  
Have you really stopped to think of what they give to us

Each time they stare into our eyes from near or far.

Our children turn to us in times of sadness

When their tiny world begins to fall apart  
All that's required is a hug to give security

A little kiss upon the head straight from the heart.

Our children want the answers to all life's questions

You explain that time reveals all hidden things

How far is space? When did time start? How did I get here?